

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

CALIFORNIA FISHERY MARKET NEWS MONTHLY SUMMARY

OCTOBER 1968

PART II—Fishing Information*

Sea-surface temperatures, fishing and research information
of interest to the West Coast tuna-fishing industry
and marine scientists

CONTENTS

Page

Sea Surface Temperature Charts, Eastern Pacific Ocean, October 1968	1
--	---

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Fishery-Oceanography Center
P. O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92037

*Part I - "Fishery Products Production and Market Data" is issued by the Bureau of
Commercial Fisheries, Market News Service, U.S. Custom House, Terminal Island, California

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE CHARTS, EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN
OCTOBER 1968

Acknowledgements

The following organizations and stations contributed data for the October 1968 charts:

- U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base, Seattle, Washington
- U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratories La Jolla, California and Honolulu, Hawaii
- U.S. Naval Communication Station Balboa, Fort Amador, Canal Zone
- U.S. Naval Weather Service, Fleet Numerical Weather Central Monterey, California
- Environmental Science Services Administration
 - U.S. Weather Bureau, San Diego, California
- Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, California, J. P. Balesteri
- Instituto de Fomento Pesquero, Santiago, Chile, by Izadore Barrett
- Inter-American Geodetic Survey by David Ortega at Manzanillo, Mexico;
 - R. H. Valencia at Puerto San Jose, Guatemala; L. A. Peren at Pt. Armuelles, Panama; V. E. Castillo at Tumaco, Colombia;
 - S. Valenzuela at La Libertad, Ecuador; LMS, EGS, MCHF, APM at Talara, Peru; Felise Falcon at San Juan, Peru
- Kelco Company, San Diego, California
- Matson Navigation Company, San Francisco, California; S. S. Californian
- Pacific Missile Range, Range Operations Department, Geophysics Division Point Mugu, California
- Pacific Oceanographic Group, Nanaimo, British Columbia, by H. J. Hollister from observations by G. C. Wilks at Langara Island Light; B. P. J. Hargey at Cape St. James Light; Lily Collins at Quatsino Lightstation; O. A. Edwards at Amphitrite Point Light
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, by Margaret Robinson and Hans Klein

Charts

Figure 1. --Mean sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) derived from approximately 8000 observations. Squares show temperatures at weather ship stations. Numerals on shore are temperatures at coastal and lightship stations.

Figure 2. --Deviation of sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) from long term charts of H. O. 225. Hatched areas are colder in 1968.

Figure 3. --Deviation of sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) from those of October 1967. Hatched areas are colder in 1968.

Figure 4. --Sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) by 1-degree squares, approximately 2000 observations. Line under temperatures indicates average of two or more observations. Numerals on shore are temperatures at coastal stations.

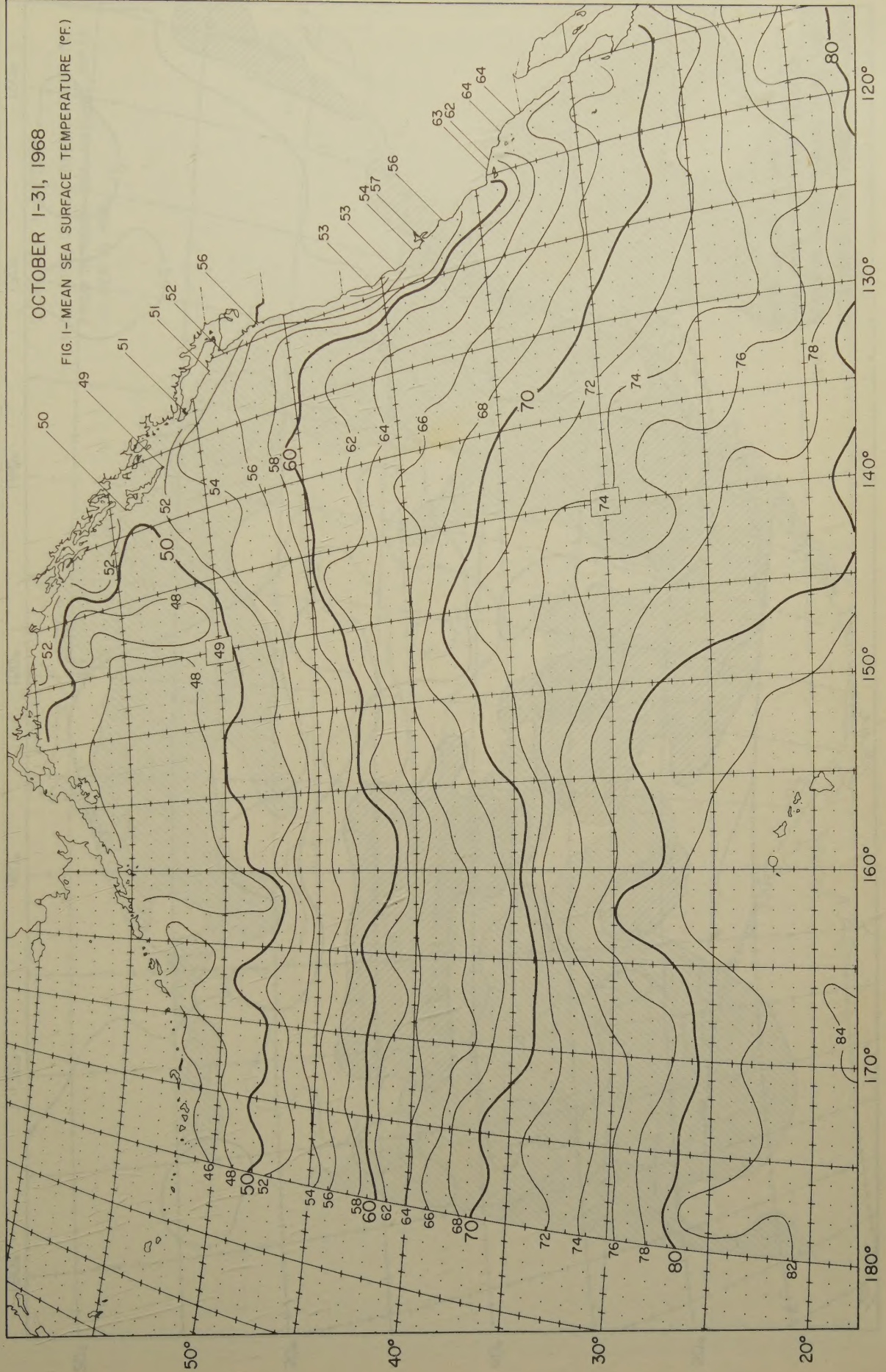
Figure 5. --Deviation of sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) October 1968-October 1967 by 1-degree squares. Shaded areas are colder in 1968.

Figure 6. --Deviation of sea surface temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) from 12-year mean (1947-1958) by 2-degree squares. Shaded areas are colder in 1968.

James A. Renner, Fishery Biologist
Kenneth S. Raymond, Scientific Illustrator
November 8, 1968

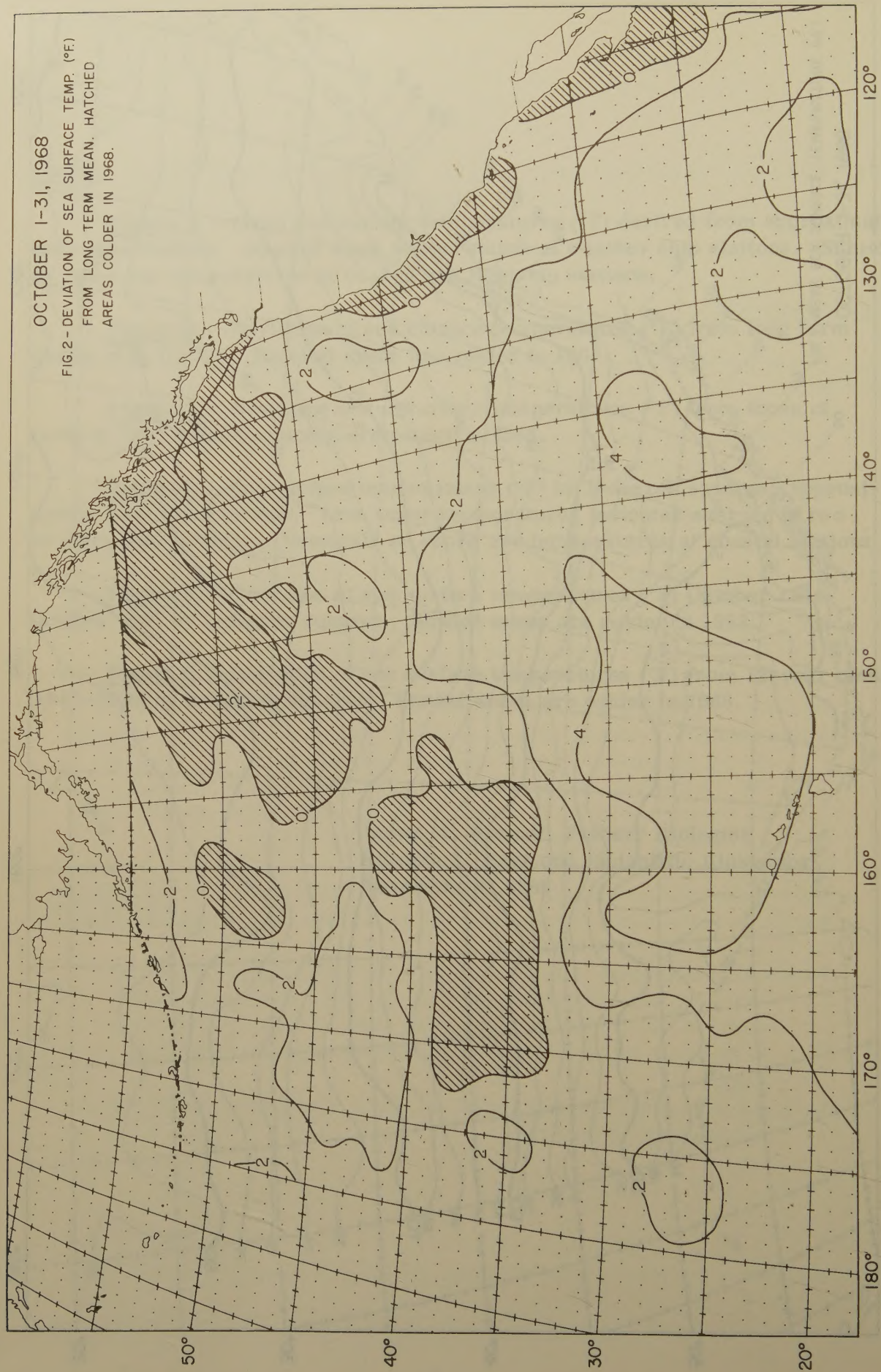
OCTOBER 1-31, 1968

FIG. 1- MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F.)



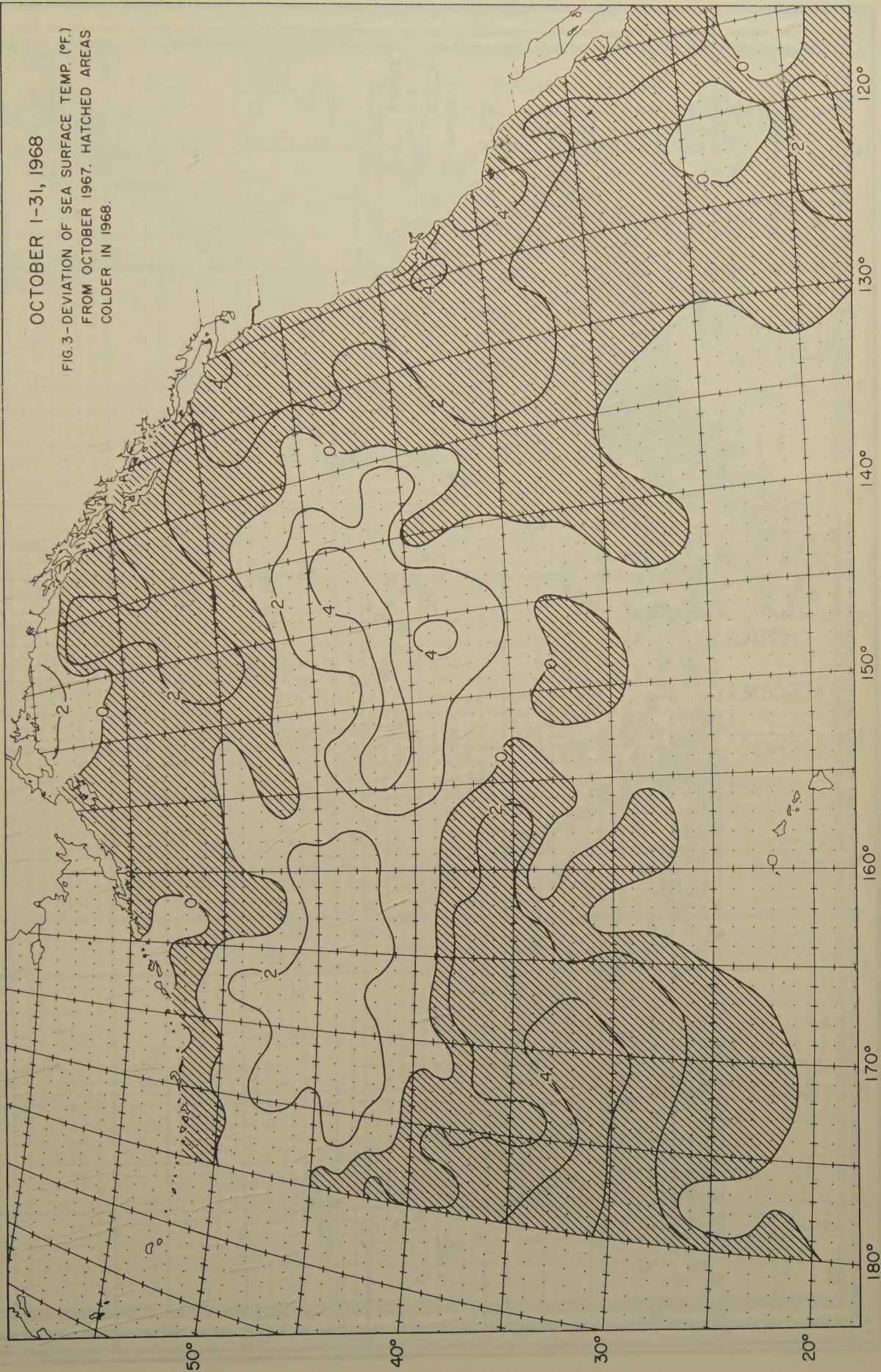
OCTOBER 1-31, 1968

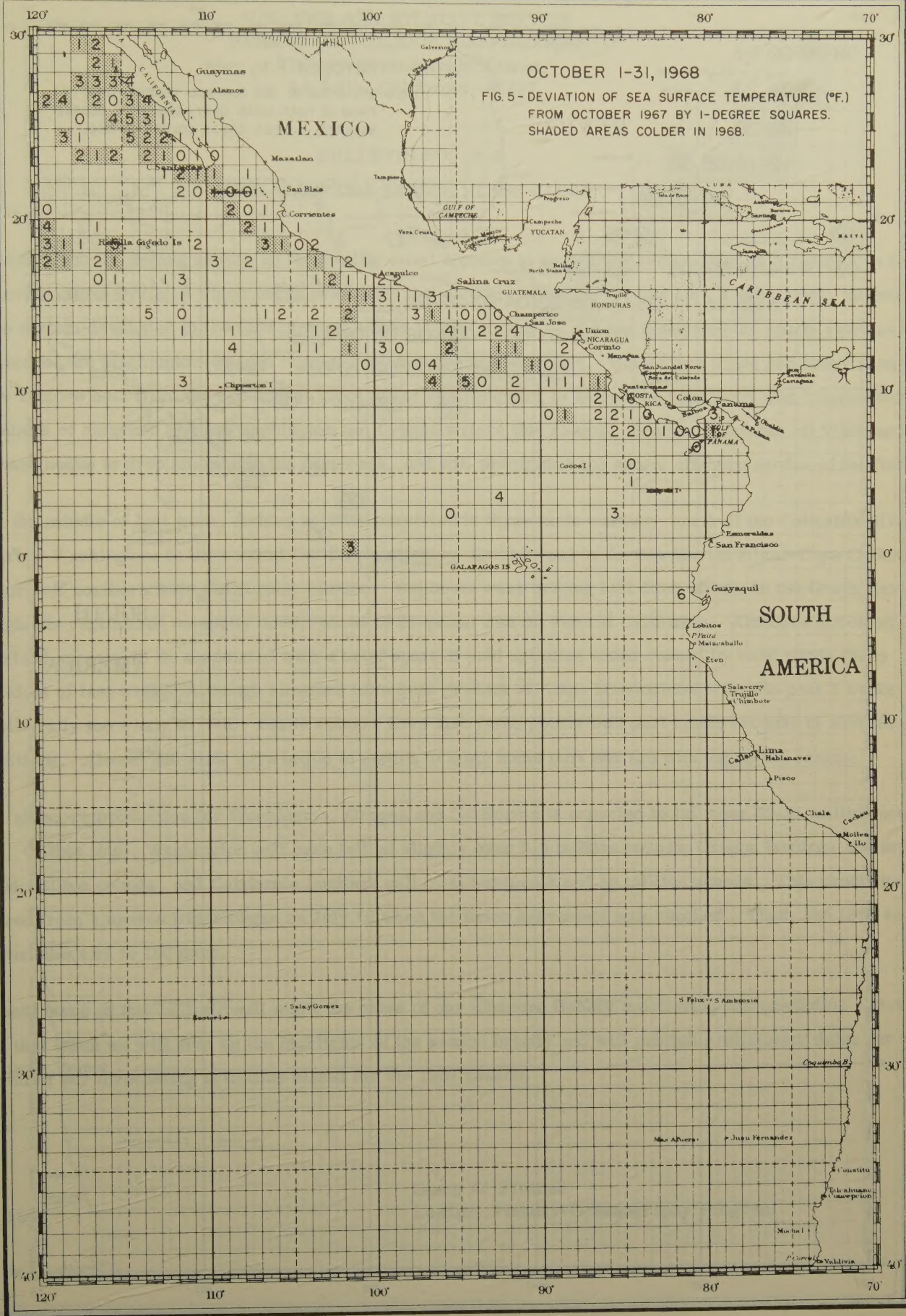
FIG. 2 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)
FROM LONG TERM MEAN. HATCHED
AREAS COLDER IN 1968.

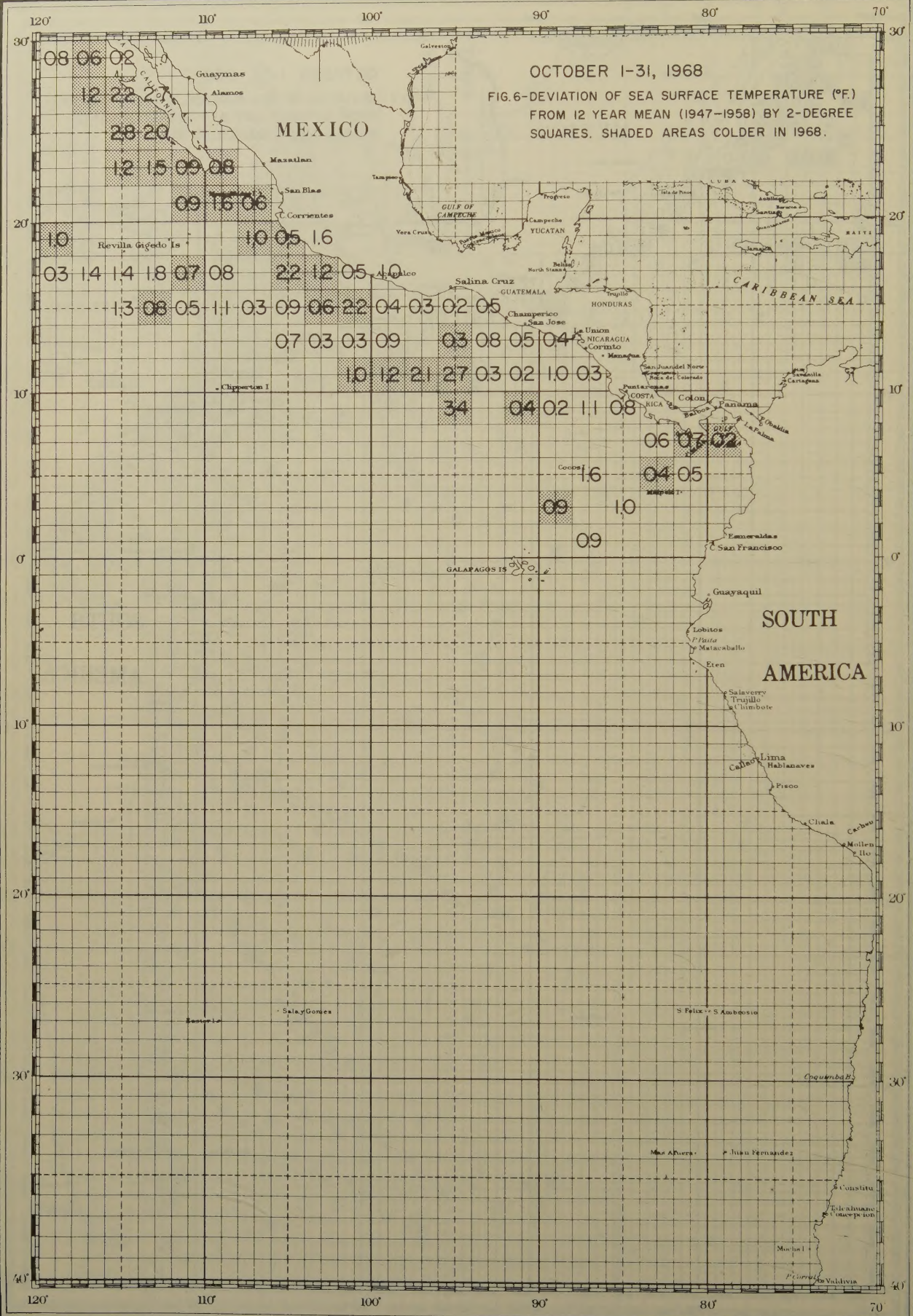


OCTOBER 1-31, 1968

FIG. 3-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F.)
FROM OCTOBER 1967. HATCHED AREAS
COLDER IN 1968.







OCTOBER 1-31, 1968

FIG.6-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F.)
FROM 12 YEAR MEAN (1947-1958) BY 2-DEGREE
SQUARES. SHADED AREAS COLDER IN 1968.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
Fishery-Oceanography Center
La Jolla, California 92037

BULLETIN NO. 68-9

1968 ALBACORE SEASON NEARS CLOSE

The 1968 albacore fishing season on the Pacific coast appears to be nearing termination as a result of a series of rapidly-moving storm systems which began assaulting the northern coast on October 10. A persistent, intense low-pressure system developed in the Gulf of Alaska area about October 8, and has generated the storm systems which have entered the Washington-Oregon coastal region in the past few days. Gale-force winds and heavy seas have begun to remove heat from the uppermost layer of the sea, bringing to an end the conditions that induced record-breaking numbers of albacore to visit Washington and Oregon waters this season. Sea temperatures off Washington and Oregon have begun to drop sharply in the past week, and will precipitate the annual offshore exodus of the fish.

Up to the middle of last week, fishing activity persisted in three main centers: north of the Columbia River in Grays Harbor Washington; in the central California offshore district; and in the San Martin Island-Cape Colnett area near shore off northern Baja California, Mexico. Baitboats were making last ditch efforts in the Grays Harbor area while jigboats capitalized on spotty occurrences of 20-pound fish off central California. Albacore action off San Martin Island appears to be associated with a brief spurt of cold upwelled water caused by local winds there during the middle of last week. Although albacore have been present off Cape Mendocino during the past 2 weeks, it has been generally too windy to fish. Purse seiners have also fared poorly this past month because of adverse weather conditions. Almost all boats have begun to return to their home port and are winding up the season.

Total albacore production for Washington, Oregon and California is expected to fall near 50-51 million pounds this year. Of this total, Washington will have tallied slightly over 2.5 million pounds; Oregon landings are expected to total near 40 million pounds, and California landings will total between 9 and 10 million pounds. This production will be realized from a season which began on July 10 when the price agreement was reached. Thus, the 1968 season will have lasted about 95 to 100 days.

The next issue of this bulletin will mark the close of our albacore fishery monitoring and prediction activities for 1968. In that issue we will sum up the highlights of the season briefly and will publish preliminary dates for the commencement of our forecasting activities slated for the 1969 season.

Glenn A. Flittner
Leader, Fishery-Oceanography Program

October 15, 1968

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
Fishery-Oceanography Center
La Jolla, California 92037

BULLETIN NO. 68-10

1968 ALBACORE SEASON ENDS

A series of intense fall storms, some reaching as far southward as southern California, have terminated the 1968 albacore tuna fishing season. High winds and heavy seas have dominated the weather scene in the Pacific Northwest and northern California offshore waters during the past 2 weeks and by month's end, almost all boats have returned to their home ports to close the season.

A new production record was established in Oregon this year: more than 41 million pounds were landed, surpassing the previous record of 29 million pounds established last year. Total albacore production for Washington, Oregon and California will be near 54-56 million pounds, placing the 1968 season as one of the top 4 years since 1940. Oregon's contribution to this year's landings thus far constitute about 76% of the total Pacific coast catch, reflecting a major geographic dislocation in the center of albacore availability--and which was observed by our forecasting staff to be developing as early as mid-July.

Although the production totals suggest near-record fishing conditions this year, such has not been the case. More fishing effort was expended this year than last, especially by halibut and salmon boats entering the tuna fishery in an attempt to offset poor seasons experienced for the other species. Albacore tuna schools were reported to be widely scattered this season with very few of the usual "signs" associated with them--few jumping or breezing fish, few porpoise, few birds, scarcity of bait-fish schools, etc. While jigboats appeared to have fared reasonably well, baitboats reported having difficulty in locating "school fish" that would take live bait. Live bait was scarce in the Pacific Northwest and many baitboats resorted to trolling and chumming jig lines with frozen and salted bait rather than to make long runs to southern ports where live bait supplies were adequate. Unfavorable wind and sea conditions further contributed to poor baitboat catches during most of the season, and seriously hampered purse seine activity.

The early-season price dispute probably cost the industry about 2 weeks of good fishing in late June and early July; all pre-season survey evidence pointed to the earliest appearance of albacore tuna off southern California in the past 3 years. In addition, the translocation of the center of the fishery into Oregon-Washington waters forced most of the albacore fleet to unload in ports not having enough facilities to handle this year's catch. Unloading delays became a major problem during the peak of the season in August; approximately 1 week's prime fishing time was lost to each boat discharging fares in northern ports. In addition, some boats relying on ice refrigeration lost appreciable poundages to deterioration on dockside while awaiting their turns to unload.

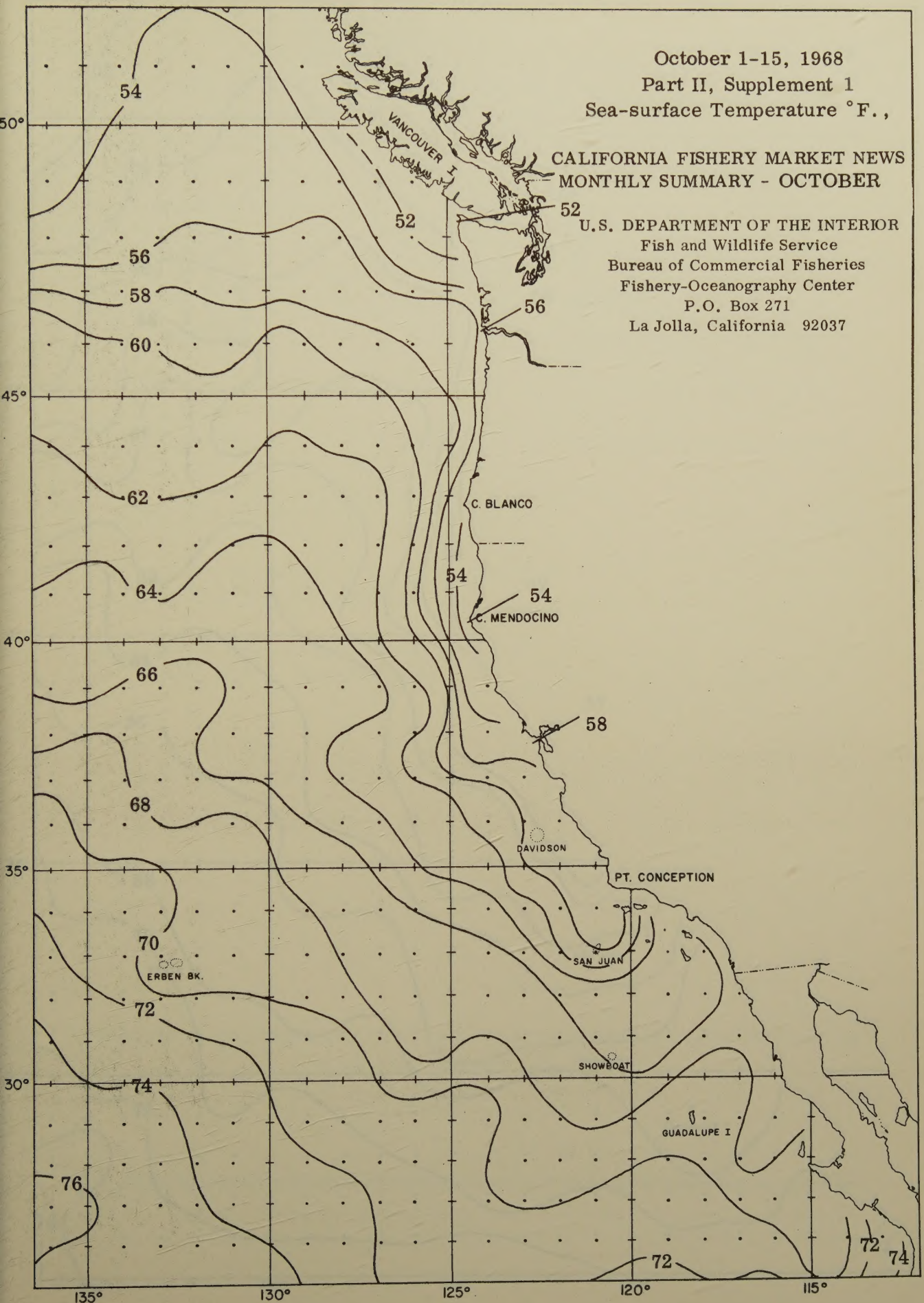
This bulletin marks the close of our albacore fishery monitoring and prediction service activities for 1968. For broader coverage of the highlights of the 1968 season, readers are advised to obtain the November issue of the California Fishery Market News Monthly Summary, Part II--Fishing Information, which will appear about December 15. Next year's activities are scheduled to commence with the issuance of the first 15-day sea temperature chart on April 15, 1969; bulletins and radio broadcast schedules will be announced as appropriate on or after that date.

Glenn A. Flittner
Leader, Fishery-Oceanography Program

October 1-15, 1968
Part II, Supplement 1
Sea-surface Temperature °F.,

CALIFORNIA FISHERY MARKET NEWS
MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Fishery-Oceanography Center
P.O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92037



October 16-31, 1968
Part II, Supplement 2
Sea-surface Temperature °F.,

CALIFORNIA FISHERY MARKET NEWS
MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Fishery-Oceanography Center
P.O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92037

